

# THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS

SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE.

OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.

VOL. XXIV, No. 38

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1918.

WHOLE NUMBER 1234



## CONGRESSMAN R. W. AUSTIN MAKES PLAIN REPLY TO TAYLOR REVIEWS HIS RECORD IN CONGRESS AND SHOWS WHAT HE HAS DONE. SHOWS UP TAYLOR AND HIS CAMPAIGN OF DECEIT AND MISREPRESENTATION. AN INTERESTING POLITICAL DOCUMENT.

### TO THE REPUBLICANS OF THE SECOND DISTRICT.

Mr. Taylor, in his second signed card given to the press, covers six columns, or about seven hundred lines of solid type, and his first announcement was of equal length. In these two lengthy documents there is not a paragraph or a line telling you of his special fitness, his qualifications, his legislative experience for the many difficult and important duties of a Congressman during these critical times in the history of our country. In my announcement I called upon him to tell you how the interest of the district and nation could be better served by him than the man he desires to succeed. Insist that he not only tell, but convince you that you would serve your best interest, the welfare of our boys on the firing line, and the interest of the country at large by changing your representative in Congress at this all important time. If he fails or refuses to do this, he is not entitled to your vote on August 1st.

I challenged my opponent to point out the votes I cast in Congress during nine and a half years' service, given in a printed record of the same, which were not in the interest of the people of the district. I have spoken more than a hundred times in Congress on public measures, and he has failed to question the priority, wisdom or soundness of any position I have taken on legislation considered by Congress during my service in the House of Representatives.

### CHRONIC OFFICE SEEKER.

Mr. Taylor begins his second letter to the Republicans of the district by charging me with being a chronic office seeker. Judge Houk voluntarily appointed me his first private secretary, and the good people of the Second District gave me my first elective office, which they had a right to do, and they know whether I have made good. Mr. Taylor has been eligible to vote sixteen years, and during that period has been holding office eleven and a half years, and with several years of an unexpired term as Mayor of the City of LaFollette, is now reaching out for another office. Out of 16 years on the pay roll, 11 1/2 years in office, and 4 1/2 out of office, and hoping, according to his support, to be re-elected, in the face of this greedy record, my opponent accuses me of being a chronic office seeker. No young Republican in the state has held office as long as Taylor, whose platform is "pass the offices around."

While holding his first position as Postmaster at LaFollette, the Department had the office investigated more times than any office in the state, on account of negligence, mistakes, shortage, irregularities, etc. The shortage

of two or three hundred dollars Mr. Taylor placed upon a subordinate whose dismissal was promised in 1908, but who remained in office about two years longer, or until Mr. Taylor resigned.

As a result of Mr. Taylor's administration of a state office, the Tennessee press has recently published a bill filed in Court calling in question the official acts of Mr. Taylor. The people of the district are witnesses to the notorious fact that for weeks and weeks he has abandoned his post and official duties as Mayor of LaFollette, in order to tack up his pictures and hand out his cards (of misinformation) in the hope of securing another position.

### MORE LOYAL CONGRESSMEN RE-NOMINATED.

Up to date, the Republicans have re-nominated every Congressman who has stood by the country—voted for the war measures. Primaries have been held in seven states—Pennsylvania, Oregon, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Maine. The only three Republicans defeated for re-nomination in Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota, did not support all the war measures. This spells the defeat and repudiation of Mr. Taylor, who has criticized my vote on one or more of the most vital war measures.

### SUDDEN ADMIRATION FOR ROOSEVELT.

Under the above head, Mr. Taylor accuses me of bad treatment of Col. Roosevelt six years ago in the Knoxville Court House, both in the county and district conventions. At the very time these conventions were held, I was in Washington City looking after the interests of the people. The gentleman who presided over the Roosevelt convention in Knoxville and the great majority of the delegates are supporting me and not the "quitters." Mr. Taylor, who accepted the district election on the Roosevelt or Progressive ticket, and later got "cold feet" and withdrew.

Col. Roosevelt would never support a candidate for Congress who does not openly endorse the declaration of war and the selective draft. He would scorn and detest a candidate who secretly and quietly seeks to injure and defeat a Congressman for supporting every war measure. Mr. Taylor aspires to the leadership of the party in the Second District, and at the same time is trying to revive the Roosevelt and Taft and Hale and Austin divisions in the party six and ten years ago, and now about forgotten. Col. Roosevelt has been and is working, like every unselfish Republican, for unity and harmony—to forget the past party differences. The ambitious Taylor is the only exception I can name, and he is thus acting not for the best interest of the party, but to prove his so-called

"party loyalty"—to advance a selfish personal interest—to secure some votes, even if it injures the party cause, or endangers Republican success.

### PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

In answer to Mr. Taylor's question, "Is it not a fact that your predecessor secured more money for public buildings than you have?" The records of Congress and of the Treasury Department do not so show. Tennessee was made a state 112 years ago, and during that period the second district has landed five Federal buildings—Knoxville, secured by Horace Maynard; Harriman by Hale, and Jellico, Maryville and Morristown by Austin. In the last ten years the three Federal buildings located in the Second District, and not one in the First District. During the last Congress, I had in the public building bill three building sites, to cost \$10,000 each, for LaFollette, Lenoir City and Rockwood. We passed this bill in the House, but it failed in the Senate. I am not responsible for the Senate's failure to pass it.

In Mr. Taylor's first announcement, he referred to the Jellico, Maryville and Morristown buildings as "three small buildings." These "small" buildings, including the land, cost over \$230,000. I challenge my opponent to name a postoffice building in Tennessee or the South in towns of equal population and postal receipts, which will compare in cost, size and finish with the ones erected in the district since my first election to Congress.

In addition to the Government buildings in the Second District, I introduced the bill in the House providing for the G. A. R. Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, costing \$750,000, and now about completed. It is one of the most costly and beautiful memorials in the world, to commemorate the deeds of our heroes who served in the Civil and Spanish-American Wars. As to the great Red Cross Building, near the White House I was one of its most active advocates before our committee and on the floor of the House.

Referring to Federal buildings, I say I am the ranking Republican member on the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, and if the next House is Republican, and I am re-elected, the chairmanship of the committee falls to me. A change of Congressmen would mean the loss of this highly important chairmanship to the district.

### AUSTIN'S VOTING RECORD.

In reply to Mr. Taylor's charge that I am not a voter—ceased to exercise my franchise, etc.—I submit the following affidavit from an honest, upright citizen and merchant of Knoxville: State of Tennessee, Knox County:

Comes L. Schwartz and makes oath in due form of law and says that he is a citizen and resident of the Fourth Ward of Knoxville, Tennessee, and that he has been a citizen of Knoxville, Tennessee, since 1881, that he has been a resident and citizen of the Fourth Ward of Knoxville, Tennessee, for twenty-two years, and that he has been the Republican Registrar for the Fourth Ward for the past twenty-two years, and that he is personally acquainted with Hon. R. W. Austin, M. C., and that the said R. W. Austin is a citizen and resident of the Fourth Ward of Knoxville, Tennessee, and that he has voted practically in all the elections held in the Fourth Ward in the last twenty years.

Affiant further states that he personally knows that the said R. W. Austin qualified to vote by registering as provided by law, and that affiant being Registrar the duties of his office require that he be present when the election is held and he personally knows that the said R. W. Austin voted in the county elections, state elections and national elections.

(Signed) L. SCHWARTZ.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this June 27th, 1918.

(Signed) W. L. JACK,  
Notary Public.

### GOOD ROADS.

I was appointed and served as the only Republican from the House of Representatives on a Joint Commission of the Senate and House to hold hearings, gather information and recommend legislation to Congress favorable to the Federal Government Building, or adding in the construction of good roads in the United States.

The last Congress voting upon the report of this Commission passed the first bill carrying an annual appropriation of \$25,000,000. I favored making the amount \$50,000,000, and in a short time it will go to that sum.

Congressman Shackelford, of Missouri, is chairman of the Good Roads Committee of the House of Representatives, and I quote the following statement from him:

Jefferson City, Mo., June 19, 1918.  
Hon. Richard W. Austin, M. C.,  
Washington, D. C.

No member of Congress has more loyally, actively and effectively supported road legislation than you have.

D. W. SHACKLEFORD,  
Chairman Roads Committee,  
House of Representatives.

### WHO PAYS TAXES?

I have examined Mr. Taylor's tax returns in the Tax Assessor's office in the Campbell County Court House at Jacksboro. The returns show that Mr. Taylor pays annual taxes of about \$1,250.00 on real estate valued at \$1,250.00 and on personal property valuations \$1,850.00. In his sworn returns he gives \$100.00 in cash, and no money in bank. On a Knoxville lot last year I paid \$50.00 taxes; \$319.00

income tax; have purchased four houses in Knox county, and the last one bought before Mr. Taylor made his charges. To prove that his statement is false, I have requested my Estate agent to file the deed. Mr. Brown Atkin, of Knoxville, can tell my insinuating opponent that I tried to purchase a house and lot from him about a year before Mr. Taylor's announcement was made.

His tax and property matter is a just issue, and its settlement will determine the wisdom of President Wilson's excellent advice during the Civil War, "Don't swap horses when you are crossing a stream."

I thought, from the noise he was making, Mr. Taylor was a very large taxpayer and property owner. Ten days ago he informed a postoffice inspector he was worth \$10,000, and he recently boasted that he had \$10,000 in a LaFollette bank and \$15,000 in Knoxville bank.

Having opened his campaign by a recital of my tax returns, property ownership, etc., I venture to ask him to tell the people why the record shows he only pays \$40.00 on some vacant lots. How about the personal income tax? I have stated mine, and the public has a right to expect Mr. Taylor to state his, especially in view of the fact that he is responsible for introducing this new and novel method of proving who of the two candidates is best fitted to represent the people in Congress during war times.

### AUSTIN OUR GREAT CONGRESSMAN.

Under this head, Mr. Taylor quotes the opinion of a Democratic correspondent in Washington City, known as Savoyard, who referred to Congressman Moore, of Philadelphia, and Alden, of Chicago, and myself, as "the fellows in Congress." Messrs. Moore and Alden are admitted on all sides as two active, able and influential members of Congress.

The Taylor witness against Moore, Alden and my representative in Congress, is a partisan Bourbon Democrat. As against Taylor and Savoyard's charge, I invite attention to the letters of praise and commendation, addressed to Judge Will D. Wright, published in the Daily Journal and Tribune of Knoxville, from leading and distinguished Republican Senators and Congressmen, representing every section of the United States, and including Speaker Champ Clark and Claude Kitchin, on the Democratic side of the House.

These testimonials bear evidence of the fact that I enjoy the good will, respect and confidence of my colleagues in Congress, and Mr. Taylor, with his partisan and prejudiced witness, can rob me of the same in the eyes of the good opinion of the just and honorable people of the Second District.

### ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH COLLEAGUES.

Mr. Taylor's second card says I am on speaking terms with several of my colleagues, and that my influence has been destroyed in Washington. Well, I have two enemies in Congress whom I am not speaking terms with—Kinley and Sells—who are aiding my opponent. Two out of 435. Have I sided with at least 1,200 Congressmen in ten years, and made two enemies. As to my standing and influence, the letters published in the Knoxville Journal from the leading members of the Senate and House should settle that insinuation or charge, to the satisfaction of every fair man in the district. After making this statement and using his Savoyard partisan Democratic Washington correspondent in an attempt to discredit me, Mr. Taylor rushes into print with his picture, to object to members of Congress testifying to my standing and influence in Washington.

### THE LAFOLLETTE CITY ELECTION.

Referring to my comment on the LaFollette city election case, when my opponent was counted in as mayor and later kicked out by the courts, Mr. Taylor says I "deliberately falsified," and that through the "influence" of manipulation of one H. M. LaFollette he was deprived of the office to which he was honestly elected.

I repudiate the charge that Col. LaFollette "influenced and manipulated" this action. Judge C. McHendon—an honorable, upright judge, and Supreme Court in an unanimous decision affirmed the action of the Circuit Judge (see Tennessee Report 12).

### FOREIGN MANAGERS.

Mr. Taylor complains because Messrs. Conner and Hudiburg, one a voter in Knoxville, and both natives of Knox county, are taking a hand in the campaign. They had sufficient excuse for justification, after Mr. Taylor attempted to injure and traduce them in the columns of a Knoxville paper.

Bringing without the slightest cause or excuse unjustly attacked these men who they were absent from the state and not parties to this contest, is unfair and unbecomingly to the honor of the state. Mr. Taylor went out of his way to furnish them just and ample provocation. Before he opened a campaign, Mr. Taylor stated that certain non-residents would finance his campaign—has visited one of these in Washington City; is in correspondence with him about the campaign, and this non-resident is mailing circulars to the voters in the district, from the National Capitol.

Understand another outsider met Mr. Taylor in Knoxville, and they

made a joint appeal to a Knoxville Republican leader to take the management of the hopeless Taylor campaign. Later the management was entrusted to a Republican supporter of Governor Patterson. Conner and Hudiburg are natives of the Second District, while Taylor's special outside friends, who meet and plot with him for my defeat, reside in the State of Illinois, and the first and third Tennessee districts.

### PARTY LOYALTY AND SERVICE.

Mr. Taylor, in his original announcement, modestly referred to his party loyalty and services, and to his wonderful speaking campaign in "Union and adjoining counties," when only 16 years of age. I have made inquiry and find Mr. Taylor is the only person who remembers those great campaign speeches.

However, twenty-two years have since passed by, and during this long period our modest, wonderful campaign orator has not favored the Republicans of Anderson, Blount, Hamilton, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Roane and Scott counties with his matchless eloquence and great stumping abilities in their many national, state and county campaigns. Yet he modestly asks the Republicans of these counties to give him the best office in their gift.

Soon after President Wilson was first inaugurated, Mr. Taylor prepared the charges against Dr. W. H. Delap, a Republican postmaster at LaFollette—his home town—Delap was appointed and commissioned for four years, and a year and six months before the expiration of his term, my opponent not only prepared the charges, but made an affidavit against this Republican official in the interest of a Democratic applicant, who was later appointed. The principal charge—the great offense Delap committed—was spending election day at the polls in the interest of the Republican party. This "loyal" Republican candidate for Congress preferred having a Democratic postmaster to one who was true and faithful to the Republican party and its candidates.

As Chairman of the State Committee, with the largest campaign fund in twenty years, and the Democratic organization financially bankrupt, the Republicans of Tennessee witnessed a miserable failure in the last state election, and the greatest Democratic majority in years.

To avoid admitting that his campaign manager, Mr. Hal Clements, who is also his candidate for membership on the State Committee, supported Governor Ham Patterson against Governor Hooper, Mr. Taylor makes the untruthful charge I did not support Hooper. I canvassed the district every time Hooper's name was on the ticket for Governor or Senator, except the year I was confined to a hospital. In every speech I urged the Republicans to loyally support him and cast my ballot for him except on one occasion, when serious sickness kept me from Knoxville Independence FOUR the polls.

### STATE CAMPAIGN.

My opponent, referring to my record as chairman of the State Committee, in mismanaging the last Republican State Committee, says:

"As a matter of fact, the entire amount handled by the State Committee during the 1916 state campaign amounted to only \$45,000, and every cent of that amount was collected and disbursed by the treasurer of the committee, Hon. A. V. McLane, of Lewisburg, Tenn."

Attention is called to the following statement from the Clerk of the House of Representatives, which proves that "every cent was not collected" by McLane, State Treasurer:

House of Representatives,  
Clerk's Office,  
Washington, D. C.  
May 1, 1918.

Hon. R. W. Austin,  
House Office Building,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Austin:  
In response to your communication of the 1st instant requesting me to inform you of the amount of money received by J. Will Taylor, chairman of the Republican State Committee, Nashville, Tennessee, as shown by the sworn statement filed in the Clerk's office by Cornelius N. Bliss, Jr., of New York, Treasurer of the Republican National Executive Committee, and by Fred W. Upham, of Chicago, Assistant Treasurer of the National Republican Executive Committee, I beg leave to inform you that the records show that on the 4th of October, 1916, Fred W. Upham paid him Five Thousand Dollars, and on the 16th of October Cornelius N. Bliss, Jr., paid him Five Thousand Dollars, on the 20th Ten Thousand Dollars, and on the 14th Five Thousand Dollars.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) SOUTH TRIMBLE,  
Clerk House of Representatives.

### PRIMARIES IN OTHER STATES, ETC.

Under the above caption and the one following entitled "Conner-Hudiburg County," Mr. Taylor attempts to make the public believe Congressman Frank P. Woods, of Iowa, was defeated on account of Messrs. Conner and Hudiburg's connection with the National Congressional Republican Committee. I am reliably informed the Conner-Hudiburg matter was not an issue in the Iowa contest—was not even mentioned in campaign speeches or referred to in the local press. According to the New York Times, the Washington Post and the western pa-

pers, Mr. Woods was defeated for voting against the declaration of war and the selective draft. Mr. Taylor's position on these two war measures, from reports I have received, is in accord with Mr. Woods' votes in Congress on these two measures.

The unanimous report of five honest, impartial and distinguished members of Congress endorsing and approving my record as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the National Republican Congressional Committee, has thoroughly satisfied all honorable men, the exception being a scheming, reckless candidate, who, after using this false, baseless charge against his absent opponent hypocritically tells the honest people of the district that "he had hoped for a clean campaign."

Not satisfied with this sample of his so-called "high-toned and clean campaign," my opponent in his second card refers to me as a "Benedict Arnold, guilty of treachery, perfidy and dishonor," "deliberately falsified, etc." At this rate, I predict that before the campaign is over, I will be charged with every crime in the calendar. I deeply regret the innocent people of the district must be so unjustly afflicted. They deserve better from one who is appealing for their votes and the honor of representing them in the greatest legislative body in the world. A SECOND CALL TO JOIN THE

### BOYS IN FRANCE.

Mr. Taylor could not find time or space in his lengthy card, covering an entire page of a newspaper, to respond to my plain and simple question as to why he would not join America's brave and patriotic sons in fighting to make our country free and secure for all time, unless he was given colonel's commission. I know of no one else who has lost his desire to fight—to answer to his country's call—for the same reason. I repeat, green, inexperienced and untried men without legislative experience are not required in a War Congress, but the Secretary of War says there is urgent need of a million or more men for the army. My opponent has no chance to be a Congressman, but can be one of the fighting men of the Republic—he can help save the country by going to France.

If he is too proud to serve as a private, his attention is called to the recent decision of the War Department to open Officers' Training Camps the 15th of every month to those beyond the draft age who have had some military training. Mr. Taylor has had military training, and here is his opportunity to make good his boast that his "patriotism and love of country is second to that of no man in America."

In all kindness I commend to Mr. Taylor the splendid example of a young Ohio Republican, Mr. Hugh Huntington, of the 12th Ohio District. He withdrew from a contest for the Congressional nomination in the following letter to the Republican leaders of the District:

"Through you I wish to notify the Republican party of Franklin county that I will not be a candidate for Congress this year. In time of war the privilege of fighting for your country belongs to young men and I gladly leave the congressional field this year to the older generation. Although not of draft age, I am decidedly of military age, and I feel it my duty to join the American army. There is no higher honor on earth than to be a private soldier or sailor under the American flag."

### IN CONCLUSION.

From Mr. Taylor's "conclusions" in his last card I quote: "I regard my patriotism and love of country second to that of no man in America." Well, let's test this statement. Has he enlisted? Has he volunteered his services except as a colonel? Did he not refuse a captain's commission in the last or Fifth National Guard Regiment raised in the Second District? Did he not urge parties at LaFollette not to join this regiment, which will soon be called to active duty?

Is it not true when the Liberty loan campaign was on he was prosecuting his race for Congress, and to parties in Anderson, Mambien, Knox and other counties stated that the people would not support me on account of the selective draft, and that he intended to make it an issue in our campaign? In view of this record I protest against Mr. Taylor bragging about his "patriotism and love of country as second to no man in America." It is an insult to more than two million brave and patriotic men, a third of whom volunteered, and thousands of his age and older, who have placed their lives on the altar of our country. It is an added insult for him to ask the fathers, brothers, relatives and friends of these men living in the Second District, to make him their representative in Congress.

Congress will take a recess practically all of the month of July, and this will enable me to canvass the district—meet the people face to face—and give an account of my work in their interest, and to refute the countless charges and insinuations made against me by Mr. Taylor while I was in Washington at my post of duty.

I commend the candidacy of Messrs. James G. Crumbliss, of Knox county, and Frank C. Norcross, of Scott county, for membership on the Republican State Committee, and hope you will support them in the primary on August 1st, 1918.

Your obedient servant,

R. W. AUSTIN.

United States Capitol,  
Washington D. C.,  
July 1st, 1918.